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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,260	07/14/2003	Srimanth Gunturi	RSW920030065US1	9972
53792	7590	09/02/2008		
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SUITE 2110				
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EXAMINER				
TRAN, TUYETLENT				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2179				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/02/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,260

Applicant(s)

GUNTURI ET AL.

Examiner

TUYETLIEN T. TRAN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed 06/04/08. **This action is made non-final.**
2. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-22 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 8, 15 are independent claims.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/04/08 has been entered.

Claim Objections

4. Applicants' amendments corrects the previous objection; therefore, the previous objection is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the

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examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al (Patent No. US 6252592 B1, hereinafter King) in view of Wenstrand et al. (Patent No. 5544299; hereinafter Wenstrand) further in view of Weeren et al (Patent No. 6637022 B1; hereinafter Weeren).

As to claim 1, King teaches:

A method for displaying a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application (e.g., see Fig. 2 and col. 3 lines 53-67), said method comprising:

defining a sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements (e.g., see col. 3 lines 53-67 and Fig. 2); and

displaying a first graphical linking element included in the plurality of visual elements (e.g., see Fig. 2; note that labels 1-7 represent the tab association between visual elements "name" to "delete" which is interpreted as graphical linking element), wherein the first graphical linking element represents the sequential tabbing order (e.g., see col. 3 lines 53-67 and Fig. 2).

While King teaches the capability for the user to see the link that extends between first and second visual elements (e.g., labels 1-7 in Fig. 1 are in numerical order), King does not expressly teach that the first graphical linking element extending between first and second visual elements included in the plurality of visual elements that includes a line segment that extends between and substantially graphically connects the first visual element and the second visual element and a graphical element that indicates a direction of the sequential tabbing order between the first and second visual element (e.g., an arrow that indicates a direction of the sequential tabbing order between the first and second visual element).

Wenstrand suggests to the skilled artisan that, linking elements with direction (e.g., arrows) are used to graphically demonstrate the connection between visual elements and are used to indicate direction of the sequential tabbing order between the visual elements (e.g., see Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 52-67 through col. 3 lines 1-14). While Wenstrand discloses that arrows are used to demonstrate a direction of a sequential tabbing order between visual elements; Wenstrand does not disclose that the linking element with direction (e.g., arrows) are used in a graphical development environment. Weeren discloses a graphical development environment wherein arrows are used to indicate a program flow (e.g., see Figs. 3, 4 and col. 2 lines 46-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to implement the linking elements with direction as taught by Wenstrand in a graphical development environment as taught by Weeren to achieve the capability to provide the arrows that are used to indicate the connection between visual elements and the direction of the sequential tabbing order between the visual element to facilitate the task of developing a program (e.g., see weeren col. 1 lines 51-63).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the graphical linking element as taught by King to include the arrow graphical elements as suggested by Wenstrand and Weeren to represent the sequential tabbing order in a graphical development environment of King to achieve the claimed invention. One would have been motivated to use the arrow graphical elements representing the sequential tabbing order because arrow graphical elements are known to indicate a direction or relation as express suggestion by Wenstrand (e.g., see Fig. 1, col. 3 lines 52-67 through col. 3 lines 1-14).

As to claim 8, claim 8 reflects the system for displaying on a display device a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application (e.g., see King Figs. 1-2 and col. 1 lines 6-10), the system comprising means for performing the method steps as claimed in claim 1, and are rejected along the same rationale.

As to claim 8, claim 8 reflects the system for displaying on a display device a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application (e.g., see King Figs. 1-2 and col. 1 lines 6-10), the system comprising means for performing the method steps as claimed in claim 1, and are rejected along the same rationale.

As to claim 15, claim 15 reflects a computer program product for displaying a plurality of visual elements associated with a computer program application, computer program product comprising computer readable program code (e.g., see King col. 13 lines 14-19) configured for performing the method steps as claimed in claim 1, and are rejected along the same rationale.

As to claims 2, 9 and 16, King further teaches:

displaying a second graphical linking element in the sequential tabbing order that associates the second visual element and a third visual element (e.g., see labels 2, 3 and elements "address" and blank field in Fig. 2). Wenstrand also suggests a second graphical linking element extending between the second visual element and a third visual element (e.g., see Fig. 1). Thus, combining King, Wenstrand and Weeren would meet the claimed limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1, 8 and 15 above.

As to claims 4, 11 and 18, King further teaches displaying a plurality of textual order tags such that each of the textual order tags is located adjacent a respective one of the plurality of visual elements and includes text indicating a relative rank of the respective one of the plurality of visual elements in the sequential tabbing order (e.g., see King Fig. 2 and col. 3 lines 53-67).

As to claims 7, 14 and 21, King further teaches defining a second sequential tabbing order for the plurality of visual elements (e.g., "add" and "delete" may form a second tabbing group, see col. 4 lines 1-13), wherein the first sequential tabbing order includes the first visual element which is not in the

second sequential tabbing order (e.g., note that the first sequential tabbing order includes "name", "address", "telephone" and "credit card" which are not included in the second tabbing order as mentioned above, see col. 4 lines 1-13), and the second sequential tabbing order includes a third second visual element, included in the plurality of visual elements, that is not in the first sequential tabbing order (e.g., see col. 4 lines 1-13);

displaying a second graphical linking element associating the second visual element and another of the plurality of visual elements, wherein the second graphical linking element represents at least a portion of the second sequential tabbing order (e.g., a distinct tabbing order may be defined within each tabbing group, see col. 4 lines 1-13).

Wenstrand suggests graphical linking elements extending between visual elements to indicate sequential tabbing order (e.g., see Fig. 1). Thus, combining King, Wenstrand and Weeren would meet the claimed limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claims 1, 8 and 15 above.

As to claim 22, Wenstrand suggests graphical linking elements extending between visual elements to indicate sequential tabbing order in such a way that the first graphical linking element has first and second apposed ends (e.g., arrow shown in Fig. 1), and wherein the first end terminates on the first visual element (e.g., element 21) and the second end terminates on the second visual element (e.g., element 22). Thus, combining King, Wenstrand and Weeren would meet the claimed limitations for the same reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

As to claims 5, 12 and 19, King, Wenstrand and Weeren teach the limitations of claims 1, 8 and 15 for the same reasons as discussed above. King further teaches changing the tabbing order of the visual elements in a user interface for an application (e.g., see King col. 2 lines 61-65). King further teaches reconfiguring the at least one graphical linking element to reflect a new sequential tabbing order responsive to a modification of the sequential tabbing order (e.g., note published paper by Cox et al.

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"Grouping objects for Tabbing and Cursoring in Visual Programming" is incorporated by reference, see Cox page 562 and Figs. 3a and 3b).

As to claims 6, 13 and 20, King further teaches modifying the sequential tabbing order responsive to user input relocating the at least one graphical linking element relative to at least one of the plurality of visual elements (e.g., see Cox et al. page 562 and Figs. 3a and 3b; incorporated reference by Cox et al).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 06/04/08 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action.

It is noted that any citation to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. In re Heck, 699 F.2d 1331, 1332-33, 216 USPQ 1038, 1039 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (quoting In re Lemelson, 397 F.2d 1006, 1009, 158 USPQ 275, 277 (CCPA 1968)).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TuyetLien (Lien) T. Tran whose telephone number is 571-270-1033. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday: 7:30 - 5:00, off on alternating Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on 571-272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/TuyetLien T Tran/
Examiner, Art Unit 2179

/Weilun Lo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2179